WORKS IN THE PROVINCES.

The proposal to enlarge the parish churchyard at Gainsborough has led to another which has met with far more general approbation, viz., the formation of a cemetery. Two meetings have already been held on the subject, and there is little doubt but at the next active proceedings will be determined upon.——The great "Peter" bell in York Minster is now safely suspended in its own tower. It is placed (at a height of nearly 200 feet) diagonally in the tower, for the greater security to the building, and above 300 cubic feet of timber have been used for its support. It may be rung with two wheels, and will revolve entirely if necessary.——The new district church, at Blaydon, in the county of Durham, has been consecrated by the bishop of the diocese. It is dedicated to St. Cuthbert.——Ground has been purchased in the parish of Bradpole, near Bridport, for the erection of a Roman Catholic church, and tenders for commencing the work forthwith have been advertised for.——The restoration of Sudely castle, which has been steadily progressing for some considerable time past is now nearly completed.——The tenders for enlarging St. Peter's church, Bedford, were opened last week; that of Messrs. Francis and Son, Taylor, and George Small, was accepted for the sum of 351*l*. The works will be commenced immediately.——At Bridgwater a Roman Catholic chapel is about to be erected. The site chosen is in St. John's-street.——Some pillars, and other remains of a Roman building, and two beautiful coins of the Emperors Antoninus and Domitian, have been discovered in High-street, Stamford.——At Hull, the Kingston Cotton Mill Company have procured a site for their intended works at Wincolmbe, on the west side of the river Hull. The purchase consists of upwards of twelve acres of ground.——The Government have it in contemplation to dispose of the prisons at Prince-town, Dartmoor. They cover a space of thirty acres, and during the late war 10,000 prisoners were lodged within them. ——The Rev. Hugh M'Neile has commenced the erection of a very spacious residence for himself and family at Aigburth, Liverpool. Messrs. Samuel and James Holme are the builders. No time has yet been fixed for laying the foundation stone of Mr. M'Neile's new church in the Princes-park.——The new church at Milton-next-Gravesend, an account of which has already appeared in THE BUILDER (see p. 365 *ante*), was consecrated last week by the Bishop of Rochester. It is dedicated to the Holy Trinity.——The clearing of a site for the proposed Free Church College, Edinburgh, has involved the removal of an extensive cluster of houses, mostly of great antiquity, situate between the Castle-hill and the head of the Mound. This range of buildings includes the palace and chapel of Mary of Lorraine, widow of James V., and queen-regent of Scotland from 1554 to her death in 1560. A new police-office is being erected in the High-street, Edinburgh, the design for which a local paper mentions in high terms of approval.——The first stone of a new church at Winchester is to be laid during the first week of October by the high steward of the city, the Right Hon. Charles Shaw Lefevre, Speaker of the House of Commons, assisted by the mayor and corporation. ——The Rev. H. Furdell having at his own expense restored the south porch of Wisbeach Church, the parishioners have determined upon defraying the cost incident to the restoration of the other parts of the building. It is proposed to bring the fabric as nearly as possible to its original condition.——The monument erected by the Marquis of Lansdowne on Cherhill-hill is now completed, with the exception of the steps which are to surround its base.——Mr. James Simpson, the eminent water-works engineer, has been in Newcastle and the neighbourhood during the last week, taking preliminary steps for the execution of the works of the Whittle Dean Water Company.——A wooden chapel was opened last week at Hinton Dyrham, near Bristol. The building, which will accommodate about 150 persons, is 27 feet long, 18 feet wide, and 14 feet high: the cost is about 150*l*. Messrs. Foster and Mees, of Bristol, were the builders.——Government has recently purchased twenty-one acres of land near the town of Tipperary, for the purpose of erecting barracks to accommodate 2,000 soldiers. They are intended for a general army depôt in that part of Ireland.——The old abbey church at Dunfermline is about to undergo a complete renovation. Mr. Nixon, the crown architect for Scotland, has recently inspected the building by order of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests. The result is a determination to erect a new roof, to restore the windows to their former size and style, to beautify the old pillars, and to give the entire church an appearance similar to what it had when Malcolm, its founder, and his good queen, Margaret, trod its aisles. The expense is estimated at 2,000*l*.——It is the determination of several railway companies whose lines pass through Wolverhampton, to unite in the erection of one grand station as near the centre of that town as possible. The bottom of Queen-street is the spot named for the joint terminus.

JOTTINGS ABOUT RAILWAYS.

Mr. De La Haye, of Liverpool, has just made public a plan he has long contemplated for the construction of submarine railways applicable to rivers and narrow seas. His proposition is to construct wrought-iron tunnels in divisions of about 400 feet in length, and to place them on the bed of the sea. He submitted the idea and its details many months since to Sir Joshua Walmsley and Mr. George Stephenson, and in all probability it led to the project of the latter gentleman to cross the Menai Straits by means of a suspension tunnel. ——Amidst the many projects connected with railways, we find one now in course of adoption for the establishment of a club-house in London, where gentlemen of all ranks may daily meet for the interchange of railway information. A mansion has already been taken at the West End. Another project of a similar character is an attempt to form a Railway Club-house Chambers and General Goods Depôt Company, the object of which is to provide a suitable fire-proof building for the general concentration of railway business, a portion of which to be converted into a commodious commercial club-house for the resort of directors and shareholders, a large hall for the holding of general and other meetings, suites of private offices for railway companies, and an extensive range of warehouses for the reception and transit of goods. The proposed capital is 300,000*l*. —— A preliminary announcement has been issued during the past week to the effect that a company is in course of formation with the object of establishing a complete system of telegraphic communication, connecting the metropolis with the different ports and cities of the kingdom by means of Messrs. Cooke and Wheatstones patent.——The battle of the gauges is not likely to effect railway interests in Ireland. The 5 feet 3 inch gauge is the one universally adopted there. It was recommended by the Board of Trade in the case of the Dublin and Drogheda railway. The gauge of the Ulster line, which at present is 6 feet 2 inches, is about to be altered to the above standard, the expense of which will be shared in equitable proportions by the lines running northward. ——The conversion of canals into railways is becoming so general, as to leave little doubt that in the course of a few years the former mode of transit will be entirely destroyed. A group of canals having at one of their extremities the Chester and Birkenhead railway, and at the other the London and Birmingham, are to be converted into one extensive London and Birkenhead line.——The Kennet and Avon canal is about to merge into the London, Newbury, and Bath direct railway. Mr. Blackwell and Mr. Maclean are the engineers. This conversion will be effected for about 414,800*l*., or about 7,500*l*. per mile.

Stone Bridge over the River Taff.—Since the appearance of the article on this bridge which appeared in last week's BUILDER, we have learnt that in consequence of the inconvenience and danger attending the old structure, the owners of property in the neighbourhood of Newbridge contemplate the erection of a new bridge below the site of the present bridge, so as to afford better accommodation for that rapidly improving and populous locality.

ARCHITECTURAL PRIZES IN ROME.

Rome, 21st August.—The Papal Academy of Arts *San Luca*, whose chair had been once filled by Thorwalsden, has proposed several great prizes, open to artists of all *nations* (and of all *confessions*). Those of *architecture* are the following. *First class.* Plan of a splendid royal residence in a large city. Its chief apartments to be hall of throne, chapel, library, museum, theatre surrounded by saloons, all adequately decorated. Besides, the building has to contain the usual *apartments* of a royal abode, for the cold and warm seasons (both the latter on the first floor). On the ground floor are to be the offices, guard-rooms, bath, kitchen, and in the *entresol* quarters for the high officers of the court. The place for stables and the servants is also to be marked out. Before the palace a large square, with monuments of the two preceding monarchs. Behind the palace, the gardens with appropriate buildings. There are to be *seven* designs accompanying this prize—*viz.* two ground plans, two sections, two elevations, and one view of any chosen part of the building. Each plan 0,840 metres by 0,576. *Second class.* Entrance gate of a large metropolis (not fortified), with adjoining edifices for the porters; the excise and the police soldiers(!) The gates to have three passages, for elegant carricles, waggons and carts, and beasts of burthen. The room for the guard is to be calculated at twenty privates and one petty officer. The officers on duty to have an orderly room, a dining and sleeping room. There is to be another guard-house for a detachment of cavalry with dwelling for the officers, prison, stables, and other appurtenances. The excise department to comprise a public office, dwelling for two superior and two inferior officers, a barrack for two detachments of troops, foot and horse soldiers, a guard-house properly so called, stables, and other appurtenances; prison, stores for smuggled and seized goods, a place for the strict examination of the vehicles, room for porters, and a waiting-room, also a dwelling for the porters. The police has a room for the revision of the post (?!) Another place for the searching of persons and goods, a prison for both sexes separately (!), also a dwelling for the officers of police. This prize is also to be accompanied by seven plans, *viz.*, one ground plan, one plan of the upper rooms, two prospects taken from the inner and outer part of the town, one longitudinal section, one transversal section, and one plan of miscellaneous details. Size of plans as above. The competitors have to transmit their works to Mr. Silvagni, secretary of the academy, on or before the 20th July, 1846, under the usual formalities of prize competitions. The prizes of the first class are forty, those of the second twenty zechins. The crowned plans are property of the academy. [As an English artist has met with such success in the competition for the Hamburg great prize—we consider it expedient to make known the above prizes, open to all the world.]

J. L.

ART-UNION OF LONDON.

In the three weeks ending Saturday last, during which the prizes were exhibited to the subscribers and their friends by tickets, 150,000 persons visited the gallery. During the present week, it has been open to the public without any limitation.

On Monday the works of art become the property of the various prize-holders and will be removed to their several homes. If the Art-Union of London did nothing more than provide this annual enjoyment for all classes of the community, it would be entitled to our gratitude.

The distribution of the outline illustrations by Mr. Rimer, of Thomson's "Castle of Indolence," due to all subscribers of the past year in addition to Doo's fine print of the "Convalescent" after Mulready, which is nearly ready for the press, commenced on Monday. They form an interesting series, and are likely to be popular.

Holloway, of Bedford-street, Covent-garden, has published at a low price, a very beautiful edition of the text, with additional illustrations by the same artist.

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